



Director of  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Monday*  
*23 April 1979*

State Dept. review completed

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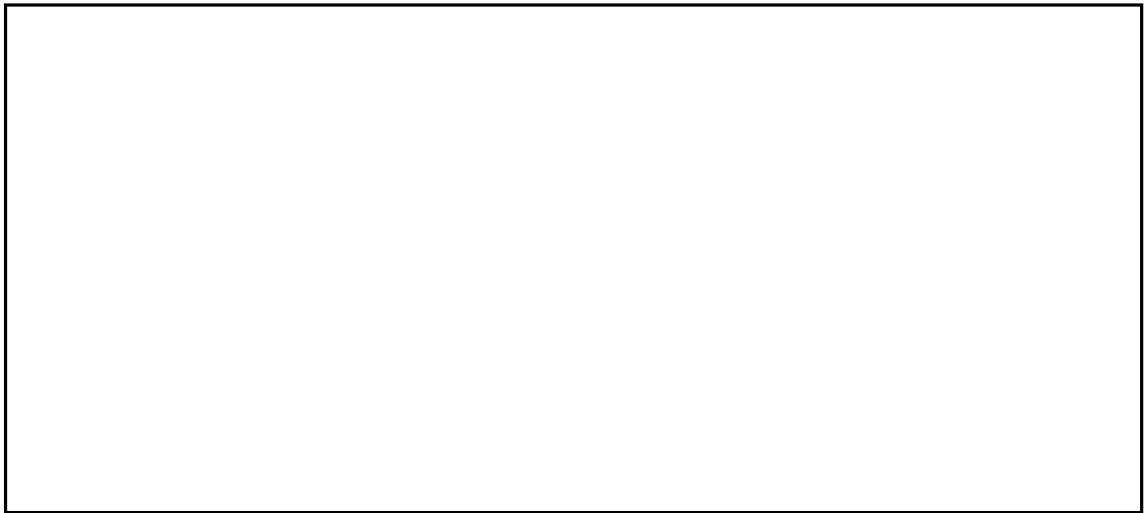
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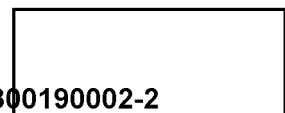
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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

USSR

The US Embassy in Moscow reports that President Brezhnev broke precedents in not attending the Lenin birthday celebration at the Kremlin on Friday and in not meeting, at least briefly, with the Congressional delegation that completed its official visit to the USSR yesterday. These developments strengthen the Embassy's impression that Brezhnev is currently on a somewhat restricted work schedule. On Friday, he did preside over a meeting of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, but Soviet television did not provide audio coverage of the proceedings--it would usually carry two or three brief speeches by Brezhnev on the agenda items. The Embassy found Brezhnev "listless and inattentive" during the relatively few closeups afforded by the television transmission. [REDACTED]

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Iran

Deputy Prime Minister Entezam, the official spokesman for the government, announced yesterday that, with the approval of Ayatollah Khomeini, Prime Minister Bazargan will take over the foreign affairs portfolio vacant since the resignation of Karim Sanjabi on 15 April. The spokesman added, however, that Deputy Prime Minister Yazdi will actually be running the foreign ministry. [REDACTED]

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Japan

Preliminary press reports indicate that conservative and centrist candidates led by Prime Minister Ohira's Liberal Democratic Party again did extremely well in yesterday's second round of local elections this month. As was true for the first round two weeks ago, the percentage of eligible voters casting ballots was at a record low. [REDACTED]

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China-Italy

Chinese Foreign Trade Minister Li Qiang arrived in Rome yesterday and is scheduled to sign a new bilateral trade agreement today. Sino-Italian trade last year totaled \$39 million, 50 percent above the level for 1977. According to a Western news agency report, Li will also confer with government and business leaders in Milan, Turin, and Venice before leaving Italy for Greece on Friday. [REDACTED]

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India

The US Embassy in New Delhi reports that the ruling but faction-ridden Janata Party has entered a renewed phase of its internal struggle with the ouster on last Thursday of Karpoori Thakur as chief minister of Bihar, India's second largest state. Thakur is an ally of Deputy Prime Minister-Finance Minister Charan Singh, and the margin of his defeat in the voting by Janata legislators in Bihar apparently was largely supplied by Defense Minister Ram. Former Prime Minister Gandhi may now renew her overtures to Charan Singh in an effort to destabilize the Janata Party, but the Embassy notes that, given her legal problems, she seems a much less attractive ally these days than several months ago. Prime Minister Desai's position is not currently in any danger, but the renewal of factional strife within his party is likely further to hamper the government's ability to function effectively. [REDACTED]

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Norway - Middle East

The US Embassy in Oslo has noted the considerable domestic political impact of the casualties suffered last Wednesday by Norwegian soldiers when Christian militia leader Haddad's forces fired on the headquarters of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Norway remains firm in its commitment to UNIFIL but will be pushing for further diplomatic efforts to restrain the combatants in southern Lebanon. Norwegian media, the Embassy comments, are displaying a growing skepticism toward Israeli disclaimers of involvement there. Norwegian leaders, however, have yet to repeat their open criticism last fall of Israeli support for Haddad. 


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Kuwait-Turkey

The US Embassy in Kuwait reported yesterday that the country's development assistance agency, which has increasingly provided aid to non-Arab states in recent years, has decided to loan Turkey about \$14.5 million for an electric power project and may provide funding for an improvement in the water supply to Ankara, Turkey's capital city. The Embassy notes that the fact of such assistance to Turkey by a major Arab aid donor is more significant than its size. 

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Thailand

With almost all of the ballots counted in yesterday's election of a new 301-member lower house, it appears likely that Prime Minister Kriangsak, as expected, will be retained in office when that post is filled by a vote of both houses of the national legislature. All 225 senators formally appointed yesterday by the King reportedly were selected by Kriangsak. The party of his principal rival, former Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj, apparently will have, however, at least 81 seats, more than any other party in the lower house. The almost certain outcome and the relatively narrow differences among the competing parties--no leftist parties were represented--probably were key factors in the low voter turnout, only slightly better than half that of the preceding election three years ago. 

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